From: Simmons, Denise
To: Michel Selva
Subject: Re: the Hewlett Packard boycott resolution
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:21:45 PM

Dear Mr. Selva,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that **this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it.** We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm (indeed, the latest I'm hearing is that the organization looking to have this sponsored may be recalculating as to when they think this can be introduced). I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous passionate op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. Neither scenario is accurate. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet actually have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to take this up for consideration unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Michel Selva <mgaselva@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 12:00 PM
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: the Hewlett Packard boycott resolution

Councillor Simmons —

I understand that the City Council is considering a resolution endorsing a boycott of Hewlett Packard (HP) in response to the fact that HP is doing business with the state of Israel. **I strongly urge you to vote NO on this resolution**. Here are a few things to consider:

1. **Endorsing this boycott is not in the interests of the City of Cambridge**. In fact, it reflects badly on our city if the Council takes sides in a complex issue such as this. It also reflects badly on the Council when it devotes time & energy to extraneous issues. Cambridge is a great place to live & raise a family, and I would like the Council to focus on enhancing the quality of life here. **A resolution like this has no place on the agenda of our City Council**.
2. **The boycott is not in the long term interests of the Palestinian people**. It is not the state of Israel which is holding them back; it is their own corrupt and short-sighted leadership. Israel is the economic powerhouse of the middle East, and its success has brought prosperity to all of its citizens, including Palestinians.
3. **The boycott does not support human rights**. In fact, it denigrates the one country in the Middle East that has done the most to protect the rights of women, gay people, Muslims, Christians, and other vulnerable populations.
4. **The boycott does nothing to further the prospects of peace in the Middle East**. In fact, the boycott gives aid and comfort to **a movement that ultimately seeks the destruction of the state of Israel**. If you attend a protest sponsored by groups that endorse the "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" (BDS) movement, you are likely to hear someone with a bullhorn leading the crowd in chants like this:

   "From the river to the sea,
   Palestine will be free."

   This slogan is explicit call for a state of Palestine that starts at the Mediterranean Sea and ends at the Jordan River. In other words, no more Israel. "BDS" really stands for "**Bullying, Deception, and Slander**." I do not want my elected officials to associate themselves with this hateful cause.

If your schedule permits, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further with you, either in person or on the phone.

Thank you.


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Michel Selva, PsyD              |  617-605-7429
One Mifflin Place, Suite 260    |  mgaselva@gmail.com
Cambridge, MA  02138            |  http://bit.ly/mselva
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